

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 10785 081704Z

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 10785

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, UR, US

SUBJECT: SOVIET PROTEST NOTE REGARDING "ANTI-SOVIET" MATERIALS

REF: MOSCOW 10418

1. SUMMARY. MFA JULY 8 GAVE CHARGE NOTE PROTESTING THE HANDING OVER OF "ANTI-SOVIET" MATERIALS BY AN EMBASSY OFFICER TO A SOVIET CITIZEN. NOTE THREATENS PNG ACTION IF SUCH BEHAVIOR IS REPEATED BY ANY MEMBER OF EMBASSY. END SUMMARY.

2. ACTING CHIEF OF MFA USA DIVISION KOMPLEKTOV CALLED IN CHARGE JULY 8 TO PRESENT NOTE (TEXT BELOW) CHARGING THAT FIRST SECRETARY IGOR BELOUSOVITCH HAD PROVIDED A SOVIET CONTACT WITH "HOSTILE AND INCITING" MATERIALS, THAT SUCH ACTIVITY WAS ACTIONABLE UNDER SOVIET CRIMINAL LAW AND COULD, IF REPEATED, RESULT IN PNG ACTION.

3. CHARGE NOTED HE WAS NOT PERSONALLY FAMILIAR WITH THE DETAILS OF THIS INCIDENT BUT WOULD ASCERTAIN THEM. HOWEVER, HE PERSONALLY SAW NOTHING IMPROPER IN EMBOFFS HAVING CONTACT WITH SOVIET CITIZENS AND WOULD APPRECIATE KNOWING PRECISELY WHAT IN THE WAY OF WRITING ABOUT THE USSR THE SOVIET SIDE CONSIDERED "HOSTILE AND INCITING." KOMPLEKTOV DENIED THERE WAS A LIST OF THESE MATERIALS, BUT INDICATED THAT SUCH A LIST WOULD CERTAINLY INCLUDE THE RECENT WORKS OF SOLZHENITSYN
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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 10785 081704Z

AND BOOKS PUBLISHED BY EMIGRE PUBLISHING HOUSE "POSEV,"

WHICH WERE AMONG THE MATERIALS BELOUSOVITCH GAVE TO A SOVIET CITIZEN.

4. TEXT OF JULY 8 NOTE FOLLOWS:

BEGIN QUOTE

NO. 35 O S SH A

THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS DEEMS IT NECESSARY TO STATE THE FOLLOWING TO THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

ON JUNE 26 A SOVIET CITIZEN, GAMSAKHURDIA, ZVIAD KONSTANTINOVICH, BORN IN 1939 AND A PERMANENT RESIDENT OF THE CITY OF TBILISI, WAS DETAINED IN MOSCOW BY ORGANS OF MILITIA FOR A VIOLATION OF PUBLIC ORDER.

DURING HIS DETENTION, GAMSAKHURDIA WAS FOUND TO BE IN POSSESSION OF NUMEROUS MATERIALS OF A HOSTIL-INCITING CHARACTER WITH RESPECT TO THE USSR, PUBLISHED BY VARIOUS ANTI-SOVIET GROUPS AND ORGANIZATIONS BASED IN THE U.S. AND CERTAIN OTHER COUNTRIES.

IT WAS ASCERTAINED DURING THE COURSE OF THE INVESTIGATION THAT THE INDICATED MATERIALS WERE GIVEN TO GAMSAKHURDIA BY FIRST SECRETARY BELOUSOVITCH OF THE EMBASSY ON THAT SAME DAY, JUNE 26, DURING A PREPARRANGED MEETING.

IT WAS FURTHER ESTABLISHED THAT CERTAIN OTHER MEMBERS OF THE AMERICAN EMBASSY HAD EARLIER MET WITH GAMSAKHURDIA ON MORE THAN ONE OCCASION AND WITH A SIMILAR PURPOSE IN MOSCOW AND TBILISI.

IT IS PERFECTLY CLEAR THAT ACTIONS OF THIS KIND ON THE PART OF MEMBERS OF THE U.S. EMBASSY IN NO WAY CONFORM TO THE AIM OF DEVELOPING RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. IT IS ALSO WELL-KNOWN TO THE EMBASSY
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MOSCOW 10785 081704Z

THAT DISSEMINATION OF MATERIALS SIMILAR TO THOSE GIVEN BY ITS MEMBER TO A SOVIET CITIZEN REPRESENTS AN OFFENSE PUNISHABLE UNDER SOVIET CRIMINAL LAW.

THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS DECLARES A PROTEST TO THE U.S. EMBASSY WITH REGARD TO THE IMPERMISSIBLE ACTIVITY OF FIRST SECRETARY BELOUSOVITCH, AND EXPECTS THAT THE EMBASSY WILL DRAW THE APPROPRIATE CONCLUSIONS

AND THAT IT WILL MOREOVER TAKE APPROPRIATE STEPS TO PREVENT FURTHER SUCH ACTIONS ON THE PART OF AMERICAN DIPLOMATS ACCREDITED TO THE SOVIET UNION. IN THE EVENT OF ANY REPETITION BY ANY MEMBERS OF THE EMBASSY OF ACTIONS OF THIS KIND, THE QUESTION WILL BE RAISED CONCERNING THE IMPOSSIBILITY OF THEIR FURTHER PRESENCE IN THE USSR.

MOSCOW 8 JULY 1976

END QUOTE. ORIGINAL OF NOTE BEING POUCHED EUR/SOV.

5. COMMENT. BELOUSOVITCH DID INDEED SUPPLY CERTAIN MATERIALS TO GEORGIAN DISSIDENT ZVIAD GAMSAKHURDIA, WHO WAS SHORTLY THEREAFTER DETAINED AND SEARCHED BY MILITIA (REFTEL). DETAILS OF INCIDENT POUCHED TO DIRECTOR EUR/SOV JULY 4. WE DOUBT THERE IS SERIOUS POSSIBILITY OF FORMAL PNG ACTION.

6. EMBASSY GUIDELINES ARE THAT MATERIALS WHICH SOVIETS CLEARLY REGARD AS HOSTILE SHOULD NOT BE PASSED DIRECTLY TO SOVIET CONTACTS BY EMBASSY OFFICERS.
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